

**Release Notes
AvnFPS1.0
(News You Can Use)
June 04, 2003**

**Section II: AvnFPS1.0 Release Notes
News You Can Use**

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- 2.0 Introduction
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2.0 Introduction

This section of the AvnFPS1.0 describes any known special problems and workarounds, if they exist. This section also provides any information of exceptional utility.

2.1 Lessons Learned

- The layout of the AvnFPS buttons are similar, but not the same as that of the Aviation Workstation. AvnFPS will take some minor transition time to understand the various new features of the software. It is reasonable to use the AvnFPS for at least a week or two before making a complete evaluation of the system.
- Upon first starting AvnFPS, each forecaster should set up his/her own AvnFPS monitor and editor Fonts, since the default Font may be too small. Changing the Font style can be accomplished by running the Setup, which is found under the "Options" menu-button.
- Many offices using the Aviation Workstation preferred to have the TAFs automatically print upon transmission. The AvnFPS also has this capability and can be toggled to print by running the Setup.
- The AvnFPS has several additional features not provided in the Aviation Workstation. Some of those new features are listed below:
 - The AvnFPS allows the forecaster to visually monitor each forecast parameter (wx, vsby, wnd, cig).
 - The AvnFPS provides a capability to easily monitor the time of the last TAF and Metar.
 - The AvnFPS provides both visual and audible alerts whenever a new discrepancy between the TAF and Metar occurs.
- The start-up of the AvnFPS monitor screen is slower than the Aviation Workstation, but once the software is up then the program run-time is

similar.

2.2 AvnFPS Tutorial

Karen Oudeman, from WFO JKL, provided all of the information below. The information includes instructions on the following topics:

To start AvnFPS:

1. Right click on a text or WS workstation or on the AWIPS icon on Linux...and go to...submenu..." start AVNFPS", then click on "Watch"
2. Give it a minute to start up...it is quickest on Linux and slowest with the text workstations using HPs.
3. Select your name and click on 'OK.' This will help in the verification program and will set your personal fonts, etc.

To Monitor:

1. Colors are similar to RAVE. To learn more about the colors, go to "file" and click on "view rules".
2. If there is a problem or potential problem, click on the 4 letter ident to view the TAF problem and the matching component in the observation will both be highlighted.

To generate a regularly scheduled TAF:

1. Click on TAFGen
Here are your choices:
 - A. Write/edit from scratch...delete previous TAF(s) and create your TAF...then move on to step v. below.

Or

B. Click on LOAD

- i. Then usually select "latest" or one of the selections below.
 1. previous (default) – loads in previous TAF
 2. template – date and time coded for you with the rest of the TAF blank
 3. merge – loads in previous TAF along with replacing the first line of the TAF with the current observation, plus any template information that needs to be added at the end of a TAF
- ii. Forecast Type choices:
 1. Regular (default)
 2. Delayed
 3. Correction
 4. Amendment
- iii. Click OKAY
- iv. Optional: Click on text to see the latest TAF, MAV output, and METAR observations or click on graph to see the graphical display of all 3.
- v. Edit/create your TAF
- vi. CHOOSE NAME – choose your name if yours does not already appear.
- vii. Click on QC/FORMAT – this is the equivalent to TAF check, but needs to be done right before you send because it does some formatting required to send. Click on SEND and when asked “Are you sure?” click ‘yes.’
- ix. PRINT autoprint is under "options"

To generate an Amendment:

Here are your choices:

1. Take the steps for generating a regularly scheduled TAF, but choose AMENDMENT for the FORECAST TYPE. This can be used for a single site or multiple sites.

Or

2. Take the short route and click on AMD "you'll get a separate window to edit" from the main AvnFPS screen. This will put in your latest TAF with the most current observation. You are now at step v above and can create/edit your TAF and continue on with steps vi through ix.

If you have multiple sites you need to amend, just click AMD then hold down the "ctr" button and click on the sites desired. Then click LOAD.

To generate a Correction:

Here are your choices:

1. Take the steps for generating a regularly scheduled TAF, but choose CORRECTION for the FORECAST TYPE. This can be used for a single site or multiple sites.

Or

2. Take the short route and click on COR from the main AvnFPS screen. This will put in your last TAF exactly how you had it. It will create a Correction for the site you have depressed and is highlighted yellow on the AvnFPS main window. You are now at step v above and can edit your TAF and continue on with steps vi through ix.

To generate TAFs for Backup Operations:

1. Click on TAFGen
2. Click on LOAD

- a. Select/highlight SERVICE BACKUP "or whatever that file is called" and, to the right under SITES, select/highlight the locations that are being backed up. Then continue as before.